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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments filed 15 March 2010 have been fully considered but they
are not persuasive.

2.   With regard to claims 1, 12, and 15, Applicant states, Chandley does not
disclose, "...fetching pixels from different segment of the frame buffer during different
power states..." However, Chandley (Column 9, lines 17-39) discloses reducing power
by not retrieving certain color channels each indicated by an 8-bit value representing 0
to 255. During low power phases, Chandley discloses that any one of the R, G, or B
values may not be read out from memory or all three channel values may not be read
out from memory. Therefore, since certain channels may not be read out from memory
during a lower power phase, Chandley discloses "fetching pixels from different segment
of the frame buffer during different power states."

      Furthermore, Applicant states, the cited prior art does not disclose "...performing
an error diffusion...and diffusing the error to up to two neighboring pixels of the source
pixel." However, Long (Paragraph 0011) discloses performing an error diffusion
operation on the pixels to reduce a color depth of the pixels, where an error diffusion
mask is applied to an image. Chandley (Column 8, lines 32-36) discloses the normal
and low power states are independent and switchable from each other by allowing a
user to input a command to adjust the power state.

      In addition, Zhang was stated by Applicant to not disclose, "for each source pixel
of each color plane of the image data, calculating an output value corresponding to a

source pixel value of the source pixel according to a predetermined algorithm, calculating an error between the output value and the source pixel value; and diffusing the error to up to two neighboring pixels of the source pixel." However, Long (Paragraph 0031) discloses converting 8-bit color depth to 6-bit color depth during error diffusion. Zhang (Page 5, paragraph 0060, lines 13-17) is relied upon to disclose "calculating an error between the output value and the source pixel value; and diffusing the error to **up to two** neighboring pixels of the source pixel," where the error of Zhang can be "**diffused to one** or more neighboring pixels." (Emphasis added) Therefore the cited prior discloses, "...performing an error diffusion...and diffusing the error to up to two neighboring pixels of the source pixel."

Furthermore, Applicant states, "...Zhang fails to disclose the specific limitation of arithmetically adding the error diffused from up to two neighboring pixels to an original value of a pixel, and storing a predetermined number of most significant bits (MSBs) of the output value. However, Zhang (Page 6, paragraph 0060) discloses subtracting an error value from a pixel, where subtraction is equivalent to addition with negative numbers. Chandley (Column 10, line 30) is relied upon to disclose storing a predetermined number of most significant bits (in this case 8-bits of a 24-bit word) in order to reduce power consumption. Therefore the cited prior art discloses all limitations of claims 1, 12, and 15.

Since the position of the Examiner on claims 1, 12, and 15 is maintained, the Examiner's position on claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 11 is also maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 11, 12, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Ashburn et al. (US 2003/0090486 A1) in view of Long (US

2004/0174463 A1) in view of Chandley et al. (US 7,389,432 B2) and further in view of

Zhang et al. (US 2006/0077489 A1).

5.   Regarding claims 1, 12 and 15, Ashburn discloses storing pixels into a frame

(Paragraph 0004) buffer where the frame buffer is divided into addresses of an address

space corresponding to rows and columns of the pixel (Paragraph 0007).

        Ashburn does not clearly disclose performing an error diffusion operation on the

pixels to reduce a color depth of the pixels, including for each source pixel of each color

plane of the image data, calculating an output value corresponding to a source pixel

value of the source pixel according to a predetermined algorithm, and storing at least a

portion of the pixels with reduced color depth in the frame buffer.

        Long discloses performing an error diffusion operation on the pixels to reduce a

color depth of the pixels for each source pixel of each color plane of the image data

(Figure 2), calculating an output value corresponding to a source pixel value of the

source pixel according to a predetermined algorithm (Page 3, paragraph 0031) and

storing at least a portion of the pixels with reduced color depth in the frame buffer (Page
1, paragraph 0011).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at
the time the invention was made to modify Ashburn to reduce a color depth of pixels to
be read by a display device because larger compatibility with various displays can be
obtained while attempting to maintain high image detail.

Ashburn in view of Long does not clearly disclose a normal power state and a
low power state, where in a low power state, the error diffusion operation is performed
on the pixels, wherein the normal and low power states are independent and switchable
from each other and not accessing the second segment of the frame buffer during the
low power state; during the normal power state, fetching the pixels from the first and
second segments of the frame buffer for display; and during the low power state,
fetching the pixels with reduced color depth from the first segment of the frame buffer
for display without accessing the second segment of the frame buffer; and reducing
color bits of each pixel with reduced color depth to fit within the first segment of the
frame buffer prior to storing each pixel in the first segment of the frame buffer and
storing a predetermined number of most significant bits (MSBs) of the output value in
the first segment of the frame buffer.

Chandley discloses switching from a normal power state to an independent low
power state (Column 8, lines 32-36) and performing a color depth reduction in the low
power state by not reading a number of bits of a pixel from the address space of the
frame buffer (Column 10, lines 17-34)

and during the normal power state, fetching the pixels from the first and second segments of the frame buffer for display; (Column 1, lines 40-53 and column 9, lines 6-16)

and during the low power state, fetching the pixels with reduced color depth from the first segment of the frame buffer for display without accessing the second segment of the frame buffer (Column 9, lines 29-39, bits of a color channel are not retrieved);

and reducing color bits of each pixel with reduced color depth to fit within the first segment of the frame buffer prior to storing each pixel in the first segment of the frame buffer (Column 10, lines 17-34, 24 bit reduced to 8 bit)

and storing a predetermined number of most significant bits (MSBs) of the output value in the first segment of the frame buffer (Chandley, column 10, line 30, 8 bits are only used).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ashburn in view of Long to allow a user to switch between power states in a device as disclosed by Chandley because a user can at any time decide on the amount of detail processing desired for display especially when on a limited power supply.

Ashburn in view of Long and further in view of Chandley does not disclose calculating an error between the output value and the source pixel value; and diffusing the error to up to two neighboring pixels of the source pixel and for each pixel of a color plane, and arithmetically adding the error diffused from up to two neighboring pixels to an original value of a pixel.

Zhang discloses calculating an error between the output value and the source

pixel value; and diffusing the error to up to two neighboring pixels of the source pixel

and for each pixel of a color plane, arithmetically adding the error diffused from up to

two neighboring pixels to an original value of a pixel, (Zhang, page 6, paragraph 0060,

one or more neighboring pixels).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify Ashburn in view of Long and further in view

of Chandley to incorporate at error into nearby pixels as disclosed by Zhang because

the color values of the nearby pixels can be visually compensated for the differences in

color value of the source pixel resulting in an improved image.

6.   Regarding claim 2, Chandley discloses reducing power to the second segment of

the frame buffer during the low power state (Column 9, lines 29-39, a color channel is

shut off with a value of 0 at different points in time to reduce power consumption).

7.   Regarding claim 4, Chandley discloses the first segment is a most significant

device (MSD) of the frame buffer and the second segment is a least significant device

(LSD) of the frame buffer (Column 9, lines 29-39, 16 bits of a pixel during a refresh time

are used as the "MSD" while the other 8 unused bits are the "LSD" of a 24 bit color

pixel).

8.   Regarding claim 5, Chandley discloses during the low power state, pixels with

reduced color depth are used as data associated with the MSD for display (Column 9,

lines 32-33, two channels for MSD) while a predetermined value is used as data

associated with the LSD for display without accessing the LSD of the frame buffer (A 0

is used for one color channel to reduce power consumption during a refresh).

9.   Regarding claim 7, Chandley (Column 9, lines 40-44) in view of Zhang (Page 5,

paragraph 0054, lines 5-13) discloses the up to two neighboring pixels are a right pixel

and a bottom pixel of the source pixel.

10.   Regarding claim 8, Zhang discloses diffusing the error to up to two neighboring

pixels comprises adjusting pixel values of the up to two neighboring pixels with at least

a portion of the error, wherein the portion of the error diffused to the neighboring pixel in

an identical row is temporarily stored in a register and a portion of the error diffused to

the neighboring pixel in a next row is temporarily stored in a line buffer (Page 6,

paragraph 0060, location of storage for pixel data is a design choice and does not affect

the end result).

11.   Regarding claim 11, Chandley discloses the error diffusion operation is

performed by an encoder implemented within at least one of software, a display

controller, and a chipset of a data processing system (Column 7, lines 31-38).

Conclusion

12.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHI HOANG whose telephone number is 571-270-3417. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xiao Wu can be reached on 571-272-7761. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Examiner, Art Unit 2628
June 17, 2010

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